

**To: Members of the House Committee on Agriculture**  
**From: Members of the Animal Agriculture Coalition (AAC)**

Members of the Animal Agriculture Coalition have been made aware of progress within the House Committee on Agriculture to pass a new bipartisan five-year Farm Bill. We are particularly encouraged that the Committee appears poised to accede to our request to prioritize funding for animal health programs for our nation's aquaculture, livestock and poultry producers. An outbreak of a foreign animal disease such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) or Avian Influenza (AI) has the ability to cripple the entire agricultural sector and have long-lasting ramifications for the economic viability of U.S. aquaculture, livestock and poultry production. It is critical that the new Farm Bill provide full funding to address these risks to animal health while likewise bolstering the long-term ability of U.S. animal agriculture to be competitive in the global marketplace and provide consumers around the world safe, wholesome, affordable food produced in a sustainable manner.

As you are aware, the Animal Agriculture Coalition has called on Congress, in the 2018 Farm Bill, to establish and fully fund a permanent three-pronged program to deliver the sufficient development and timely deployment of all measures necessary to prevent, identify and rapidly respond to the potential catastrophic impacts that an animal disease outbreak would have on our country's food security, export markets, and overall economic stability.

It is essential that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), state animal health officials, and stakeholders involved in animal agriculture have: (1) early detection, prevention and rapid response tools to address any potential animal disease outbreak; (2) robust laboratory capacity for surveillance; and (3) a viable stockpile of vaccine to rapidly respond to the intentional or unintentional introduction of a high consequence disease like FMD. We cannot wait. The arrival of highly pathogenic AI in our country in 2014 clearly demonstrated the implications of these diseases, both financially and from an animal welfare standpoint. In that outbreak, the direct cost to taxpayers was nearly \$1 billion, while the costs to the poultry industry were more than \$3 billion.

Livestock producers are particularly concerned about the potential introduction of FMD. FMD is at this time the most important transboundary animal disease in the world and presents the greatest economic threat to U.S. animal agriculture. Recent studies indicate the cumulative 10-year loss due to an uncontrolled FMD outbreak would be \$199.8 billion.

We are aware that in these early stages of farm bill development, proposed funding levels for this new critical program may not reach the levels we believe are necessary. While we are encouraged by what we believe to be the initial proposal, we urge you to continue to identify additional funding sources so that we can ultimately establish in this farm bill a fully funded, permanent animal disease prevention, detection and rapid response program.

Thank you for your consideration of our priorities. We look forward to working with you.

Alabama Cattlemen's Association  
Alabama Poultry & Egg Association  
American Association of Avian Pathologists  
American Association of Bovine Practitioners  
American Dairy Goat Association  
Animal Dairy Science Association  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Goat Federation  
American Horse Council  
American National Cattle Women  
American Sheep Industry Association  
American Society of Animal Science  
American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians  
American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
Animal Health Institute  
Arizona Cattlemen's Association  
Arizona Pork Council  
Arkansas Cattlemen's Association  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Association of Veterinary Biologics Companies  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization  
California Cattlemen's Association  
California Pork Producers Association  
California Poultry Federation  
Catfish Farmers of America  
Chicken & Egg Association of Minnesota  
Colorado Cattlemen's Association  
Colorado Egg Producers  
Colorado Livestock Association  
Federation of Animal Science Societies  
Florida Cattlemen's Association  
Florida Poultry Federation  
Georgia Cattlemen's Association  
Global Cold Chain Alliance  
Hawaii Beef Industry Council  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Association  
Idaho Cattlemen's Association  
Illinois Beef Association  
Illinois Pork Producers Association  
Indiana Beef Cattle Association  
Indiana Dairy Producers  
Indiana Pork Advocacy Coalition  
Indiana State Poultry Association

International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses  
Iowa Cattlemen's Association  
Iowa Pork Producers Association  
Iowa Poultry Association  
Iowa Turkey Federation  
Kansas Livestock Association  
Kansas Pork Association  
Kentucky Cattlemen's Association  
Kentucky Poultry Federation  
Louisiana Cattlemen's Association  
Louisiana Pork Producers Association  
Michigan Allied Poultry Industries  
Michigan Cattlemen's Association  
Michigan Pork Producers Association  
Minnesota Pork Producers Association  
Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association  
Minnesota Turkey Growers Association  
Mississippi Cattlemen's Association  
Mississippi Pork Producers Association  
Mississippi Poultry Association  
Missouri Cattlemen's Association  
Missouri Pork Association  
Mycobacterial Disease of Animals Multistate Initiative  
National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials  
National Association for the Advancement of Animal Science  
National Association of Federal Veterinarians  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Turkey Federation  
Nebraska Cattlemen  
Nebraska Pork Producers Association  
Nevada Cattlemen's Association  
New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association  
New Mexico Wool Growers  
New York Beef Producer's Association  
North American Meat Institute  
North Carolina Cattlemen's Association  
North Carolina Poultry Federation  
North Dakota Pork Council  
North Dakota Stockman's Association  
Northwest Chicken Council  
Ohio Pork Council  
Ohio Cattlemen's Association  
Ohio Poultry Association  
Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association  
Oregon Cattlemen's Association

PennAg Industries Association  
Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association  
South Carolina Poultry Federation  
South Dakota Cattlemen's Association  
South Dakota Pork Producers Council  
South Dakota Poultry Industries Association  
Tennessee Cattlemen's Association  
Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association  
Texas Cattle Feeders Association  
Texas Poultry Federation  
The Poultry Federation: Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas  
United Egg Producers  
United States Animal Health Association  
U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center Stakeholder Committee  
Utah Cattlemen's Association  
Virginia Beef Industry Council  
Virginia Cattlemen's Association  
Virginia Pork Council  
Virginia Poultry Federation  
Washington Cattlemen's Association  
Washington Cattle Feeders Association  
Wisconsin Poultry & Egg Industries Association  
Wyoming Stock Growers Association